

St Oswald's Church Newsletter

Open Daily

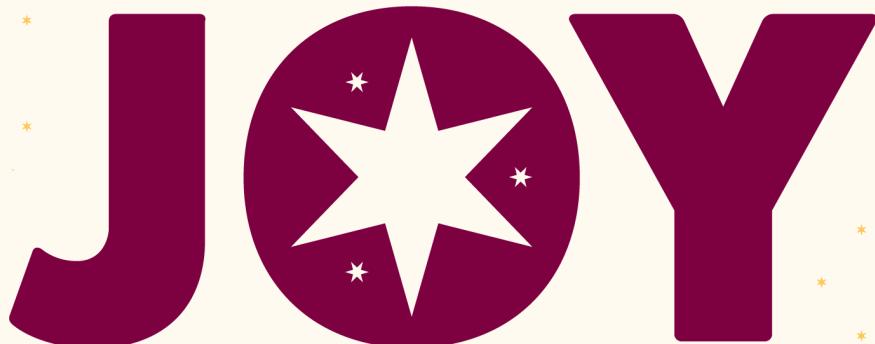
St Oswald's Church is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

St Oswald's Church

School Lane
Ashbourne DE6 1AN
Tel: 0303 300 0498

December

19: Blessing of the Angels
21: Nine Lessons + Carols
25: Holy Communion



St Oswald's Church, Ashbourne Carol singing in the Community

Thursday 11th December – St Oswalds Hospital @ 6.00pm

Tuesday 16th December – Dove House @ 11.00am

Thursday 16th December - Ashbourne Lodge @ 2.30pm

Friday 19th December – The Leys @ 2.00pm

Christmas Wishes

We wish you a very Happy Christmas. From all at Ashbourne Group of Churches.

Everyone welcome to come and sing. We are always made so very welcome.

Ministry Thought for the Week

Like me, you probably saw a good deal about Children in Need recently on television. I was interested in the way young people described how they had been helped by Children in Need.

Among them were those who were carers for their parents who suffered serious illness. As well as explaining clearly what they needed to do for their parents, they told how they looked after their siblings, ran the home, shopped, cleaned, did the laundry and many other tasks, as well as trying to get their homework done and get to school.

It is so good to hear what Children in Need have been able to do and the gratitude expressed by the young people, but what impressed me most was the way in which they spoke, with no complaints, just a calm acceptance of the responsibility they had taken on.

It reminded me of when I was a tutor for a Year 9 group at a Comprehensive School, a group of boys and girls, many with particular difficulties, with whom I had worked, on a one to one basis.

I was concerned, therefore, when one of the girls who appeared not to be troubled by serious problems and whose academic work, attendance and punctuality were excellent, came to apologise for not having done her homework on time and to ask me if she could hand it in after the weekend. I

assured her that she could certainly do that, but also asked her if there was a problem, because it was such an unusual request from her. She explained to me that it had been a difficult week because her mother was having a bad spell with her Multiple Sclerosis; she had severe pain, her mobility was very limited and she suffered loss of vision and coordination. Jane (I'll call her) needed to spend extra time nursing her mother and looking after her younger siblings including shopping, cleaning, cooking, laundry and getting them off to school. Her Dad did as much as he could, but his working hours made that difficult.

I had no idea that Jane's mother had MS and that Jane had accepted the responsibility of maintaining the life of her family calmly and willingly. All families are different, but all the young people I heard on TV talking about their care of family members seemed to have the same acceptance of the responsibility, not as a burden, but as part of their relationship with their family.

Some months later I met Jane's mother at a Parents' Evening. She was having a better period with her MS and she was keen to speak with me about Jane's contribution to their family life and her success in school. It was good to hear how much she respected her daughter and was grateful to Jane for relieving her of so much, even when her MS was a little better.



WRITTEN BY PIP SHORT

One of my concerns about young people today is that many adults talk at them constantly and do not listen to what they have to say, and many of them are not given any respect or responsibility.

I am not suggesting that children should all have the amount of responsibility that Jane had, but to be given the duty to do something helpful on a regular basis, and to be thanked and appreciated for it, can be a very valuable part of their development.

In Matthew's Gospel Chapter 19 v 14 we have the extremely well known words, Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not

hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'

Unfortunately, particularly in the last two centuries, there have been many paintings and other depictions of these words which show Jesus looking rather like Santa Claus with a little crowd of rather soppy looking children.

In fact Jesus is saying very strongly that the characteristics of children, such as clear thought, honesty, openness and willingness to take action are exactly those needed by the inhabitants of the Kingdom of Heaven. It is a huge responsibility and worthy of the greatest respect.

Get in Touch

The Parish Office is open:
Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 10:00 to 12:00.

Telephone: 0303 300 0498.

If you need a priest urgently call 01335 664159

This Month's Events



Mayor's Carol Service

Sunday 14th December,
15:00



Memorial Celebration

Monday 15th December,
19:00

OSSIE'S KITCHEN



Why eat alone ?

**Come and join us for a three course meal
In the company of others
Family friendly
Open to All**

**between 4pm and 6pm
on Tuesdays**

**7th & 21st October, 4th & 18th November,
2nd & 16th December**

St Oswald's Church Centre, School Lane, DE6 1AN



**Suggested donations of
£4 per adult and £2 per child**

**For enquiries & to request transport
call Ossie's Kitchen on 07437 377345**

St Oswald's Church, Derbyshire CC & FareShare

Welcome to our New Parish Administrator

This month we welcomed our new Parish Administrator, Nicola Fisher, to our team. Nicola will be based in the St Oswald's Parish Office and will be supporting the clergy and the lay teams for all the CofE Churches in the Ashbourne Group.

One of her first objectives is to improve our social media and communications for our churches and the community and will be producing the weekly and monthly newsletters.

Please support Nicola as she starts her new role and gets to know the members of the team and how we work together.

Originally from Manchester, Nicola moved to Ashbourne in 2020 and wholeheartedly embraced life in a small village, supporting her local church website and becoming part of the farming community.

When she's not organising parish life, you'll find her tending to her flock of hens

on a nearby smallholding, and helping around the farm with the sheep and Lincoln Red cattle.

She has extensive experience in business administration, communications and marketing, with a particular interest in digital technology, social media and websites.

Nicola feels privileged to be a part of the rich history of our churches while exploring new ways to connect with our community. She looks forward to meeting the church team and parishioners in the coming weeks.



The Parish Office is open between 10:00 and 12:00 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Ashbourne Rotary Shoebox Appeal

On behalf of Ashbourne Rotary, I would like to thank all the members of the church who supported our Shoebox Appeal this year.

With your help we have managed to collect 465 shoeboxes from Ashbourne and the surrounding villages, which are on their way to Eastern Europe.

An amazing effort which will bring a smile to the faces of many children who might otherwise not receive a present this Christmas.

December Dates

Saturday 8th December onwards - St Oswald's Church Ashbourne - Christmas Tree Festival

Tuesday 9th December @ 13:00- St Oswald's Church - Ossie's Potters

Tuesday 16th December @ 16:00 - St Oswald's Church Hall - Ossie's Kitchen

Thursday 25th December @12:30 - St Oswald's Church Hall - Christmas Party

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL SERVICE 2025

MONDAY, 15TH DECEMBER 2025
AT 7:00 PM

ST OSWALD'S CHURCH,
ASHBOURNE

W JONES & SON
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
01335 360319



Pastoral Matters

If you would like to contact a member of the clergy team to discuss any pastoral matter please telephone 01335 664159



Blessing of the Angels
Friday 19th December,
11:00

St Oswald's Bookclub

December's read was 'Orbital' by Samantha Harvey. A Booker Prize Winner and Sunday Times best seller: Life on our planet as you've never seen it before.

A team of astronauts in the International Space Station collect meteorological data, conduct scientific experiments and test the limits of the human body. But mostly they observe. Together they watch their silent blue planet, circling it sixteen times, spinning past continents and cycling through seasons, taking in glaciers and deserts, the peaks of mountains and the swells of oceans. Endless shows of spectacular beauty witnessed in a single day.

Yet although separated from the world they cannot escape its constant pull. News reaches them of the death of a mother, and with it comes thoughts of returning home. They look on as a typhoon gathers over an island and people they love, in awe of its magnificence and fearful of its destruction.

The fragility of human life fills their conversations, their fears, their dreams. So far from earth, they have never felt more part - or protective - of it. They begin to ask, what is life without earth? What is earth without humanity?



PLEASE JOIN ASHBOURNE CHURCHES TOGETHER FOR A
**CHRISTMAS
PARTY**

Celebrate joy, laughter, and holiday cheer with friends and family in a festive Christmas party filled with love and magic!

25 DECEMBER 2025 - St Oswald's Church Hall

DOORS OPEN 12PM - LUNCH SERVED 12.30PM

TO BOOK:

AshbourneChristmasParty.eventbrite.com

OR call 01335 664159

Come for lunch on Christmas Day! Celebrate joy, laughter and holiday cheer with friends and family in a festive Christmas party filled with love and magic. If you haven't made other plans, do join us in St Oswald's Hall on 25th December. Doors open at 12:00 noon. Lunch is served at 12:30 p.m. Phone 01335 664159 to book.

Nine Lessons and Carols

Join us for a traditional Christmas Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.



21st December, 2025



6:00 PM



St Oswald's Church
School Lane, Ashbourne
DE6 1AN

Follow Us

Find us on Facebook
and Instagram -
@ashbournechurch.

Keep up to date with all
the latest news.



Holy Communion

Thursday 25th December,
08:00



Family Holy Communion

Thursday 25th December,
10:30



There are many men and women in our community who are caring for a loved one and it is very seldom realised just how little recognition they get for fulfilling such an important but lonely role.

If you, or someone you know, is caring for a loved one, for whatever reason, and would like the chance just to have somewhere you can have an hour or so respite with coffee and chat with people who understand the challenges you face daily, then come along to 'Carers Count'.

'Carers Count' meet on the first Wednesday of every month between 10am and 12 noon at St Oswald's Church Hall in School Lane, Ashbourne where you are assured of a warm welcome, a friendly face and a listening ear.

We work with Derbyshire Carers Association who give advice regarding practical support to which one might be entitled. They also support our meetings with the occasional special event.

For more information and to let us know that you would like to come along, then call Maggie or Nigel on 01335 664159

Parish Giving Scheme

If you would like to set up a regular payment to St Oswald's Church then you can do so through the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). You can telephone the Parish Giving Scheme on 0333 002 1260 to set up a payment. The PGS code for St Oswald's Church is 120612186



Crib Service

Wednesday 24th December,
16:30

Walking with St Oswald's

St Oswald's has a choice of 2 walking groups.

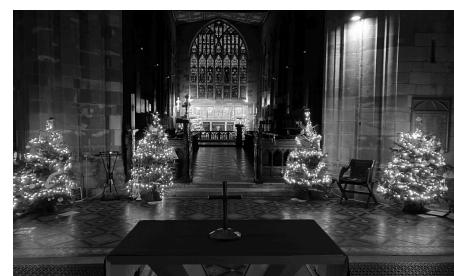
The Ramblers group meet on the 2nd Monday of the month, start walking at 10.00am and covering approximately 5 miles.

The Walking group meet on the last Saturday of the month, start walking at 9.30am and covering approximately 10 miles.

St Aelred's Pilgrim Trail

The walking group have decided on their challenge for 2026. We are going to walk the St Aelred's Pilgrim Trail from 1st to 8th May 2026. This is a 41 mile pilgrimage linking the 9 churches of Upper Ryedale and Helmsley with Rievaulx Abbey.

Aelred of Hexham was a Cistercian monk and from 1147 – 1167 he was Abbot of Rievaulx. He wrote on Christian friendship and was gifted with wisdom to lead.



Midnight Mass

Wednesday 24th December,
23:30

BREAKFAST CHURCH

St Oswald's Church Centre

Sunday 14th December

9.00am



**Start your Sunday with
Breakfast Church!
Join us for a delicious
breakfast of cereal, toast,
coffee and your choice of
bacon or sausage butty.
Enjoy a warm and welcoming
atmosphere as we gather
for worship and fellowship**



**Please come and give it a try.
To help with catering, please
book your place in advance by
contacting Andy Wright,
Email admandjewright@gmail.com**



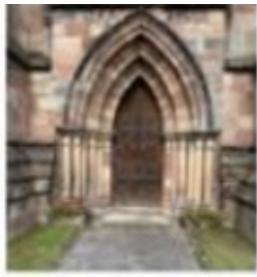
Christmas Tree Festival

The Ossie's Potters have been very creative once again. Last year, if you remember, we were visited by Santa's little helpers - the Elves. Now this year and, following two very busy workshops, filled with lots of fun and laughter, a number of reindeers have been created. If you want to find all the reindeer, you will have to look really hard and explore all the areas of the Church. Each reindeer has got a name. Has your name been chosen to be a reindeer? Gather all the capital letters of their names and it will spell a special message. Our young visitors to St Oswald's will be especially good at this challenge; however, this puzzle is open to everyone. Happy reindeer hunting!





Ossie's Potters



A group of people who enjoy being in the fresh air with other people, have been pottering around the Church and Church Hall.

They meet on alternate Tuesdays to tidy flower beds, plant up new areas and make the surroundings of the Church look more colourful, loved and cared for.

They always finish with a cup of tea.

Would you like to be a Potter too?

**Why not come and see where
they're pottering?**

You would be very welcome.

**They will be meeting on
9th December**

From 1pm until 3.00pm

